

Remarks

In response to the Final Office Action mailed December 1, 2003, no claims have been cancelled, amended, or newly added. Therefore, claims 1-37 are currently pending in this application. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-20, 23, 25-27 and 29-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hotaling, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,124,912 ("Hotaling"), in view of Cree, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,817,018 ("Cree"). Claims 21, 22, 24, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hotaling in view of Cree and further in view of Tognazzi, U.S. Patent No. 5,790,974, ("Tognazzi"). Applicants traverse these rejections as set forth below.

Independent Claims 1, 5, 6, and 7

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "automatically updating the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the electronic mail invitation using one of the plurality of response options." At least these features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Hotaling or Cree, either alone or in combination with one another.

The Examiner concedes that "Hotaling does not expressly teach that its electronic mail invitation includes a plurality of response options for the invitee to respond to the electronic mail invitation...wherein the calendaring system automatically updates the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the electronic mail invitation." (See page 4, last paragraph- page 5, first paragraph of Final Office Action).

The Examiner apparently relies on Cree col. 3, line 49 through col. 4, line 20 to teach this feature. The Examiner states that:

"[I]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to adapt Hotaling's electronic mail invitation to include a plurality of response options...wherein the calendaring system automatically updates the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the electronic mail invitation." (See page 5, first paragraph of Final Office Action).

Applicants submit that there is no support in the cited passage for the Examiner's position. The cited portion of Cree does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the system **automatically** updates the invitee's invitee profile **based on the invitee's response to the electronic mail** invitation. (See col. 3, lines 55-58 of Cree).

Rather, Cree discloses that an automatic assignment of an alternate for a particular event can be setup in advance by the calendar owner. (See col. 4, lines 21-23 of Cree). Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not equate Cree's setting up an alternate in advance with Applicants' system that automatically updates the invitee's invitee profile based on the invitee's response to the electronic mail invitation. Furthermore, Cree fails to disclose the use of email for invitations. Thus, Cree does not teach or suggest the (1) the electronic mail invitation, (2) the invitee's response to the electronic mail invitation, and (3) the automatic update to the invitees' profile based on that response.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Cree does not remedy the deficiencies of Hotaling. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Independent claims 5, 6, and 7 include features similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above, independent claims 5, 6, and 7 are also patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Dependent claims 2-4, 8-16, and 31-34 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 5, 6, and 7. Because neither Hotaling nor Cree disclose, teach or suggest each of the features of the independent claims, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-4, 8-16, and 31-34 are also patentable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Independent Claims 17, 26, and 30

Claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, a server operable to “automatically modify the availability information for the invitee if the invitee’s response indicates that the invitee accepts the invitation...” At least this feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Hotaling or Cree, either alone or in combination with one another.

The Examiner apparently relies on Hotaling to teach or suggest all of the features of claim 17. The Examiner states that:

“An invitee’s public schedule is automatically updated to reflect tentatively scheduled meetings; however, the invitee can then choose an automatic option to either update his/her calendar, indicating acceptance of the invitation, or the invitee can request to delete a tentatively scheduled meeting, thereby provoking the scheduling system to automatically delete the tentatively scheduled meeting, indicating declination of the invitation.” (See page 15, first paragraph of Final Office Action)

referencing Figs. 1-2, 10-12; col. 3, lines 10-30; col. 7, line 61 through col. 8, line 13; col. 10, lines 13-18; col. 8, lines 19-27; and col. 10, line 22 through col. 11, line 59 to support his position.

However, a careful reading of these portions reveals that Hotaling does not support the Examiner’s position. For example, Hotaling at col. 10, lines 13-18 and lines 22-31 discloses:

After the user views the detail of a particular meeting solution and decides to schedule the meeting for this time, he may directly invoke Send invitations procedure 59 through Electronic Mail 21 by depressing the function key 7...

The sending invitee’s invitation automatically updates the public template field of his schedule record if he is a participant of the Meeting Management service 19 and is critical to this meeting and this completes the cycle of Meeting Management 19. As previously mentioned the “private” template field of a person’s schedule record can be changed by various methods. A user gains access to his private template through the main menu screen...

The portion below in Hotaling col. 10, lines 52-56 and col. 11, lines 21-27 states:

A slash indicates a filled (unavailable) half-hour and is inserted manually by the user, or automatically by the system through the update calendar procedure 65 whenever a change is made in the user’s calendar...

Although a user has an automatic option to update his private template, he must still use the Scheduling File Maintenance routine 61 in at least one instance. When a user makes a calendar entry beyond the 161 day scheduling window for Meeting Management 19, the system cannot automatically copy that entry on the private template [sic] field...

Thus, it appears that Hotaling discloses using an email as a notification for a meeting that is automatically noted in the public template. The user has the option of manually copying the meeting from the public template to the private template or manually setting up the automatic option to copy the meeting from the public template to the private template whenever the user receives an invitation. Hotaling does not give the user an opportunity to **respond to the invitation**, because the meeting is automatically set up in the public template. Furthermore, Hotaling's manual step of copying the meeting from the public to the private template is not the same as Applicants' responding to the invitation. At best, Hotaling discloses a meeting request that is automatically scheduled into the public template and copied by the user to the private template.

Therefore, because Hotaling does not provide the user with an opportunity to respond to the invitation, Hotaling does not disclose, teach, or suggest modifying the availability information based on the invitee's response as set forth in claim 17. Cree does not make up for these deficiencies of Hotaling. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 17 is patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Independent claims 26 and 30 include features similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 17. Therefore, independent claims 26 and 30 are also patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 17.

Dependent claims 18-25, 27-29, and 35-37 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 17, 26, and 30. Because neither Hotaling nor Cree discloses, teaches, or suggests each of the features included in the

independent claims, Appellants submit that dependent claims 19-25, 27-29, and 35-37 are also patentable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Dependent Claims 31-37

Claim 31 recites, *inter alia*, "response options further includes ... requesting for re-scheduling the meeting." This feature is not taught or suggested in Hotaling or Cree, either alone or in combination with one another.

The Examiner acknowledges that Hotaling is deficient because "Hotaling does not expressly teach...requesting for re-scheduling the meeting." The Examiner then relies on Cree (Fig. 3; col. 3, line 49 through col. 4, line 20) to teach this feature. However, Cree teaches "an electronic calendaring method in which a reply is developed whether by the owner interactively or by the system automatically that reflects the invitees' intention not to attend the meeting but instead sends an alternate." (See col. 3, lines 55-59 of Cree). Thus, it appears that the only response option Cree teaches is assigning an alternate to attend the meeting. Applicants submit that Cree does not disclose, teach, or even suggest that the response options further includes... requesting for re-scheduling the meeting. Therefore, claim 31 is patentable over Hotaling in view of Cree.

Dependent claims 32-37 include features similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 31. Therefore, dependent claims 32-37 are also patentable for at least the reasons set forth above for claim 31.

Dependent Claims 21, 22, 24, and 28

The Examiner further relies Tognazzi to teach various features of these claims. However, Tognazzi alone or in combination with Hotaling and Cree does make up for the deficiencies of Hotaling and Cree discussed above with respect to the claims from which these depend. For at least this reason, claims 21, 22, 24, and 28 are patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

CUSTOMER NUMBER
29315

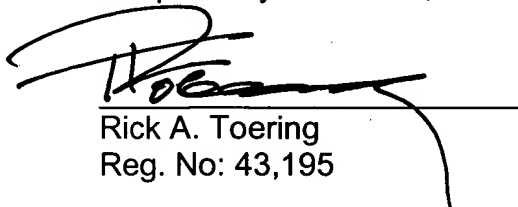
Application Serial No.: 09/100,133
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Conclusion

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,



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